



PATENT
Docket No. 12475/50903

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPL. NO. : 09/709,170 CONFIRMATION NO. 4982
INVENTORS : Raymond P. Warrell, et al
FILED : November 10, 2000
TC/A.U. : 1635
EXAMINER : Terra C. Gibbs

DOCKET No : 12475/50903
CUSTOMER NO.: 23838

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Advisory Action dated March 26, 2004 to ensure that the amendments filed on March 15, 2004 (in response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2003) are entered. This paper meets the submission requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Applicants herewith respectfully request an interview with the Examiner before an Office Action is issued. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the attorney of record to schedule an interview at the Examiner's convenience.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 8 of this paper.